

## Johnny Cash: the King of All Genres

Born in Kingsland, Arkansas in 26 February 1932, John R. Cash was an American musician, singer, actor, and author. Throughout his music career, he managed to sell more than 90 million records globally. He didn't specialize on one genre, but was able to embrace styles such as rock and roll, country, blues, and even gospel. He managed to get inducted into the Rock and Roll, Gospel and Country music halls of fame.



During his career, Cash worked with labels such as Columbia, American, House of Cash, Legacy, and Sun. Some of the acts that Cash worked with include:

- The Carter family
- Bob Dylan
- Merle Haggard
- The Tennessee Three
- Million Dollar Quartet and
- U2

Popularly known for his deep baritone, Cash was born to parents who weren't doing so well for themselves in the cotton industry. After a short stint in the Air Force, he managed to find fame from singing country music in Memphis Tennessee.

## Johnny Cash Best Hits

Listening to some of [Johnny's songs](#), one could be forgiven for thinking that the man carried a lot of pain and sorrow inside him. A lot of his songs were sorrowful or carried messages of redemption. Some of Johnny's biggest hits include songs such as:

- Orange blossom
- Hey Porter
- A boy named Sue
- One piece at a time
- Folsom Prison Blues
- Ring of fire
- I walk the line
- Get rhythm and
- Man in black
- Don't take your guns to town

In 1956, December 4<sup>th</sup>, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee and Cash began to belt out tunes while in studio. Since the tapes were still running, most of the songs were recorded and the group came to be what was to be known as "the million dollar quartet". In 1958, [Cash](#) joined Columbia records and recorded his greatest hit "Don't take your guns to town".

Since before that Cash left a significant amount of recordings at the Sun, where he was previously signed, both record labels would release his songs almost simultaneously. It was quite a unique situation that saw Cash's records being released by Sun till as late as 1964.

Even through drug addiction in the late 1950's, Johnny Cash still managed to churn out hit after hit such as a creative rendition of the song, "A ring of fire".



### **Johnny's Projects**

It is said that in 1967, Cash was a lot under the influence of drugs that he tried to commit suicide. He got into a cave with the intention of dying but he instead passed out. When he woke up, he claimed that he had an encounter with God that he called his rebirth.

In 1965, Cash became an activist on behalf of Native Americans, something he had long wanted to do when he wrote a song about Native Americans called "Old Apache". Cash was able to showcase about the plight of the Native Americans through songs and in film.

In 2004, Cash was recognized by Rolling Stone magazine as "100 Greatest Artists of all time".